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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/606,995	06/26/2003	Miles Justin Russell	C2C9138US01	5136

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KEVIN FARRELL
PIERCE ATWOOD
ONE NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE
PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801

EXAMINER

LAM, CATHY FONG FONG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1794

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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06/06/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/606,995	Applicant(s) RUSSELL, MILES JUSTIN	
	Examiner Cathy Lam	Art Unit 1794	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>06-26-2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claims 8 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 8 and 16, applicant is claiming the non-conducting film layer is can be aluminum is contradicting. Aluminum is an elemental metal which is both electrically and thermally conductive.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-4, 7-8, 9-11 and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Sato et al (US 3932250).

Sato teaches a metal foil overlaid laminate and a method of making a circuit board laminate.

The metal foil overlaid laminate is comprised of a press plate (1) (or separator), a metal foil (2), a plastic film (3) (as a release film) and an adhesive layer (4) (Fig. 1b).

The press plate (1) (or separator) is placed between a metal foil (2) and a plastic film (3) (col 4 L 10-11). The metal foil (2) and the plastic film (3) are larger in size than

the press plate (1); such that the metal foil (2) and the plastic film (3) are bonded together at the periphery edge by an adhesive layer (4) (col 4 L 24-27).

The metal foil (2) can be a copper foil and the plastic film (3) which acts as a release film can be a polytetrafluoroethylene or an aluminum foil (col 2 L 30-50).

A method of manufacturing a circuit board laminate comprising the steps of alternately placing a plurality of metal foil overlaid laminates and a plurality of laminating bases (i.e. insulating layers) together between two pressing plates (c).

The release film (i.e. aluminum foil or plastic film (3)) of the press plate (1) (or separator), are facing the pressing plates (c). The circuit laminate is then heated under pressure. When the laminating step is finished, the press plate (1) and the release film (3) would be removed (col 2 L 24-29, col 4 L 53-62 & col 6 L 4-7).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 5-6 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al (US 3932250) in view of Backhaus (DE 19831461 C1) or Johnston (US 5725937).

Sato teaches the present invention but is silent about what the separator was made of and the thickness of the separator. Sato does not explicitly teach any space between the separator and the joint.

Backhaus teaches a metal foil laminate comprised of an aluminum sheet (1) and two copper foils (2) (Fig. 1).

The aluminum sheet (1) is used as a separator between two copper foils (2). the copper foils are larger than the aluminum sheet and the copper foils are joined at a point outside the edge of the aluminum separator but with some copper foil still projecting (3) (Fig. 1, col 2 L last full ¶).

The examiner is taking the position that the area (3) is a space between the aluminum separator and the copper foils' joint.

Johnston also teaches a PCB component which is a laminate (3) comprised of a sheet of aluminum and two sheets of copper foil (Figs 2 & 3).

The laminate (30) comprised of a copper foil, an aluminum foil and a copper foil; all in the named order. the aluminum has a thickness from about 0.01 to 0.015 inch (i.e. 254-381 μm) (col 4 L 50-55). The aluminum foil acts as a separator, has a smaller surface than the two copper foils, so that the copper foils are joined together by a band of adhesive (40) extends around the periphery (or at the border) of the two copper foils (col 5 L 53-60).

An area (46) between the edge or border line of the aluminum separator and an inner edge of the adhesive band is left without any adhesive (col 6 L 1-4 & Fig. 5).

The examiner is taking the position that this area (46) is a space between the separator and the joint as claimed by Applicant.

In view of the prior art teachings, one of ordinary skill in the art would choose aluminum as the separator and would have some space between the separator and the

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joint because aluminum is a relatively better thermally conductive material and is a good separator /releasing sheet, and the space is there for any thermal expansion during heating.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cathy Lam whose telephone number is (571) 272-1538. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached on (571) 272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Cathy Lam/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794